TO THE

FREE CITIZENS,

AND

FREE-HOLDERS,

OF THE

CITY of *DUBLIN*.

The Second Edition.

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Printed for JAMES KELBURN in
George's-Lane, 1748.

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To the FREE CITIZENS, and FREE-HOLDERS, of the CITY of *DUBLIN.*

AS the place of a CITIZEN, to repreſent you in Parliament, is become Vacant, by the Death of the late, Sir *James Somerville*, Bart; I think it, incumbent on every Free Man, to offer his beſt Sentiments, on this important, I may ſay, critical Occaſion, to your Conſideration; therefore, I cannot be Silent.

To Serve a BRAVE, FREE PEOPLE, in any Capacity, is truly honorable: To be, *freely*, returned to ſerve ſuch, in the GREAT REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE NATION, is, no doubt, a moſt honorable Vocation: --- But it is ſo, only to that Repreſentative, who has the Virtue to aſſert the RIGHTS and LIBERTIES of his CONSTITUENTS; for otherwiſe, he muſt become a Reproach to himſelf, as well as to them. But, to come into Parliament, by any *Degree* of *Corruption*, by any ſort of Siniſter *Influence*, or by any other means, than a *fair*, *Popular*, a *true*, Election, will, I hope, ever be deemed below the Dignity of a CITIZEN of *Dublin*, as it muſt be an indelliable Diſgrace to any Man: *Corruption* and *Venality* in Elections, being the great, I had almoſt ſaid, the only, *Inlet*, by which *Court-Dependence* and *Slavery*, which muſt end in *Tyranny*, can have acceſs, to the Subverſion of our civil Conſtitution.

It has pleaſed Providence, ſo far to infatuate, or fruſtrate the Attempts of thoſe, who have labored, with more Aſſiduity and Induſtry, to over-turn, than moſt have to Preſerve, this Conſtitution, that it is, yet, our own Faults, if we do not retain, and improve, the *little Portion* of Liberty left us. And to our peculiar honor and Happineſs, we are the only Body Corporate in the Kingdom, that have preſerved

Preſerved our INDEPENDENCE, in Elections; and conſequently, where a PASSAGE to the *higheſt Offices* in the State, is, yet, kept open to the *loweſt Citizen*. Theſe, MY BRETHREN, are great, invaluable Privileges! Which, if once loſſed, you can never hope to regain, and which, if duly Husbanded, cannot fail of procuring, and ſecuring laſting Bleſſings to OUR CITY, in particular, as well as to the Nation in general.

Theſe abrupt Hints, if duly conſidered, will ſhew you, that you are not to look out for a fit Repreſentative among theſe, alone, who are moſt forward in *Supplicating* or *Bidding* for your *Votes*, your *Favor*, or your *Intereſt*. You are to ELECT, among your BRETHREN and FELLOWS, whether or no you are Solicitted by any. You are to CHUSE, for your Selves, a CITIZEN, as your honeſt and unbiaſſed Hearts direct. Every virtuous Member of your Community, is bound by Principle, as well as by Law, to Serve every Office in the City, to which he is *regularly*, *fairly* called. In this Senſe, every *good Citizen* muſt always be a CANDIDATE, for every Office you can confer on him, from the *loweſt* in the City, to the *higheſt* in the State. Whoever then, appears, among the Citizens, beſt qualified to ſerve you; whoever beſt underſtands the National, as well as civil Conſtitution; can beſt acertain the *PREROGATIVE* of the *PRINCE*, and the *RIGHTS* and *LIBERTIES* of the *SUBJECT*, and who has the beſt, known, Ability, and the moſt manifeſt Intention, at the Hazard of all that he can enjoy on Earth, to keep up thoſe Boundaries, ſtrictly and inviolably; he of common Right, demands your Voice, and from *SUCH A CITIZEN*, he is *perjured* and *profligate*, that *with-holds* his Vote, and much more, that *Sells*, or *gives* it, for any *ſelfiſh*, or *private* Conſideration, to *another*. The Man choſen on theſe Principles,

Principles, is bound to exert himself in your Service, by every Obligation; whether Politic, moral or Religious: Whereas, he who, by any other means, *Purchaſes* the Voices of a People, cannot be called their Repreſentative. For, whatever the Trifles may be, which he *barters* for them, the very *Electors* become his *private Property*; he is not to be looked on, as their *Servant*, or *Delegate*; he is abſolutely their *Maſter* or *Owner*; and they are not to be juſtly deemed his *Electors*; they are his *Venal Slaves* and *Proſtitutes*. And, tho' this be the moſt illicit, baſe, and deſtructive *Trade*, yet, who has a right to Reproach the *Buyer*, for expoſing the *Commodity* to *Sale*, which he *bought*, probably, for that Purpoſe?

Let not then, MY BRETHREN, *Seeming Security beget Sloth*. Look about you, and ſee, if we do not bear many, too evident marks of a *declining*, I might have ſaid, an *enſlaved* State! The freeſt People are conſtantly beſet with ſundry imminent dangers of falling into *Slavery*. We cannot, therefore, be too vigilant, too active, in preſerving the *Remnant* of Freedom left us: Since we can not be aſſured, that this is not the very laſt time we may be called together, as *free Men*, to *chuſe* for our ſelves a Repreſentative. Remember you have had a Parliament, which changed your national Conſtitution, from the *Original Frame*, of *KING*, *LORDS* and *COMMONS*, to the *KING*, by his *Vice-gerent*, *Lords*, *Commons* and *Privy-Council* of *Ireland*; together with his *Royal Perſon* and *Privy-Council* in *England*? Did not another, grant *hereditary* Revenues to the Crown? Did not a third ſuffer, without oppoſition, or even, murmuring, the *SUPREME COURT* of *JUDICATURE* to be removed out of the Kingdom? And was it not propoſed, within the Memory of moſt of the Citizens, in a fourth, that the Subſidies ſhould be granted to the Crown,

Crown, for twenty one Years; which was carried in the negative, by the *ſingle Voice* of *ONE PATRIOT*, who rode Poſt to ſave his Country, and juſt entered the Houſe, time enough to give his *Saving* Voice?---What has once happened, may again---I could ſay more, but theſe are enough to ſhew you, what we have already ſuffered, by the *Corruption* or *Supineneſs* of our *Commons*, and what we are ſtill to dread from thoſe Quarters, and to prompt you to the neceſſary *Prudence*, and *Caution*, as well, as *Freedom* in your Choice.

The firſt Preparatory to this, is due Deliberation. As you are Freemen, think as Freemen, judge, and finally, determine, as Freemen.

Your Repreſentative muſt be a *CITIZEN*; conſider who is, and who is not a *CITIZEN*. Not every Man, who for Views beſt, and fit only to be, known to himſelf, purchaſes his Freedom of your City, deſerves this, once, great Appellation. Theſe are the *Harpies* that have already over-turned all the Corporations, in the Kingdom; and wiſh for nothing more than to reduce yours to the ſame wretched Level: Who gape for the many Places the Miniſtry have at their diſpoſal, and ſeek for nothing more, than to gratify their *ſordid Deſires*, by ſucking out the very VITALS of their Country. Such, *MY BRETHREN*, cannot repreſent you, nor, indeed any People properly. A *Trading City* can only be repreſented by a TRADESMAN, and while a *Tradeſman* can be found, fit for your purpoſe, You cannot, without an unpardonable Injuſtice, to him, to yourſelves, and to your Country, over-look him.

There is, with Grief I tell it! one Claſs of Men, partly, in Trade, in your City, that are utterly unfit to repreſent you I believe you will readily judge, I mean the Board of *Aldermen*. Had theſe *Creatures* of the Citizens kept within the Bounds *preſcribed*

preſcribed them, at their Inſtitution, by their *Conſtituents*; had they been ſtill *elected* by the *People* or their *Repreſentatives*, and executed the Truſt and Powers, in them repoſed, for the *Honor* and *Intereſt* of the Citizens, *ſome* of theſe Men, *ſuppoſed* to have grown Wiſe in the Service of the City, may well be intituled to your Favor. But I muſt ſay, that however amable theſe Men, or any of them, may, poſſibly, appear, in their private Capacities, yet, as *Aldermen*, they are *profeſſed Slaves* to the *Miniſtry*, and *Tyrants* to the CITIZENS. Whatever excuſe they might have pleaded for their inſufferable *Uſurpations*, heretofore, they have none now. It is confeſſed at *Law*, and is undeniable in *Fact*, that they with-hold an ORIGINAL, INHERENT RIGHT of the COMMONS and CITIZENS, contrary to *Law*, *Equity*, *and good Conſcience*. And it is plain, that rather than let the Commons and Citizens, the *only lawfull*, the *Charter Governors* of the *Hoſpital* for reduced Citizens and their Children, have any ſhare in the Government thereof, they have *illegally* and *unjuſtly* excluded them, and cover this ſhameſull *Uſurpation*, by calling in *Lords*, *Judges* and other Men in Power. By which means the ſpurious Off-ſpring of the meaneſt of the People are now preferred and provided for, on this *Foundation*, laid by the *Citizens*; many of whoſe Children, tho' by Misfortunes, reduced to the loweſt Extremities of Life, are left *neglected* and *abandoned*. Can any Man who *countenances* this *Tyranny*, this *Perfidy*, and *unnatural Cruelty*, be deemed a Friend to a FREE CITY, or a fit Repreſentative for a *FREE PEOPLE*? ---No Man in his Senſes can ſuſpect it.---So that, let them be ever ſo ſtrongly *hemmed* in, by Men in Power, and attempted to be *palmed* upon you, by their *Influence* or *Authority*, you muſt be abſolutely void of all Senſe of *Freedom*, *Juſtice*, and *common*

Right,

Right, as well as all regard to *YOUR CITY* and *YOUR COUNTRY*, and run retrogade to *VIRTUE* and *LIBERTY*, it's ſelf, before you can *Proſtitute* your Voices, to bring them into Parliament.

I conjure you then, *MY BRETHREN and FELLOW CITIZENS*, that as you are yet bleſſed with FREEDOM, you will, in every Senſe, preſerve it. Act cautiouſly with all Men. Truſt none, till you prove them. Engage in no *Party* or *Faction*: TRUTH and LIBERTY neither require nor admit of *ſuch Supports*. Determine to *chuſe* from *Principle*, and he but Inſults you, that would *extort a Promiſe* for a Vote. He that has conſcious Merit, will ſcorn to demand a Promiſe; nor will he direct his Addreſſes to the *Gentlemen*, *Clergy*, *Free-holders* and *Freemen*; as he knows, that no Gentleman, whether of the *Laity* or *Clergy*, is intituled to a Vote, for a Member to repreſent you in Parliament, otherwiſe, than as being a FREE CITIZEN, or FREE-HOLDER.

Thus much I thought neceſſary to advertiſe you of, as well as the hurry of Buſineſs, and the Shortneſs of time would permit. As I am ſenſible, that whenever you have erred in your Choice, it has been for want of *due Information*, I ſhall never let ſlip any opportunity of conveying ſuch Truths to your Ears, as may be conducive to your Freedom and Wealth; to promote which, and to approve my Love and Eſteem for you, is, and ever ſhall be, the conſtant Endeavor, as it is the utmoſt Ambition of,

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Your moſt affectionate Brother,

Dublin
Aug. 18th 1748.

and faithful Fellow-Citizen

C. Lucas.